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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2248
INFO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/FBI WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ BICE INTEL WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ BICE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 000034

SIPDIS

PM/DTCC BLUE LANTERN COORDINATOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ETTC KOMC MY

SUBJECT: BLUE LANTERN RESPONSE ON PRE-SHIPMENT END-USE
CHECK ON APPLICATION 050136184

REF: SECSTATE 133964

1) Pursuant to reftel request, Econoff on 16 January 2009 spoke with Mr. Leandro Villar, the local representative for Avibras in Malaysia. In addition, the Embassy's Econ FSN identified an official, Ms. Puan Norhaslinda bte Abdullah, within the Malaysian Ministry of Defense (MOD) Procurement Office who was familiar with the reftel information on the proposed sale of armor plate from a U.S. company to Avibras in Brazil, which would be used in the manufacture of military vehicles for export to Malaysia. Both Ms. Puan and Mr. Villar knew almost all details as specified in reftel, and therefore we support the proposed sale.

2) During the conversation with Mr. Villar, he said that the armored plate would be utilized in the manufacture of the cabin for an artillery rocket-associated vehicle that would be exported to Malaysia. The first vehicles would be exported to Malaysia in late 2009, with the second and final batch exported in early 2010. He also knew the amount of the proposed sale and details of the U.S. manufacturer. Mr. Villar was helpful and forthcoming, and welcomed re-contact. For the record, his cell phone number in Malaysia is (012) 268-5317.

3) Mr. Puan -- who speaks only Bahasi Malay -- is the Assistant Secretary within the MOD's Procurement Division, and told our Econ section FSN that the Malaysian MOD had a requirement for a certain military area (the artillery rocket system), and that her office had negotiated an agreement with Avibras. The FSN described Ms. Puan as helpful and knowledgeable about Avibras and the U.S. manufacturer. Her contact information: Unit 1, Ministry of Defense, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, with a local office landline phone (60-3) 2071-5092, fax (60-3) 2698-2926.

4) We found no abnormalities during our check, and recommend approval of the sale.

KEITH